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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DAY  
2009

11. The following is the text of the Presidential Message  
for Foreign Affairs Day. Begin text:

The White House  
Washington

May 1, 2009

I send my warmest greetings to those gathered at the  
Department of State, as well as those serving around the  
globe, as we celebrate Foreign Affairs Day 2009.  
Throughout your years of service, you have worked to  
build a better, more democratic, secure, and prosperous  
world for the American people and the international  
community. Your dedication and commitment to advancing  
our national interests-often at the risk of your own  
safety-are to be commended. You make a difference in the  
lives of Americans and in the lives of citizens of our  
host countries. Your nation thanks you for your service.

Foreign Affairs Day is also a somber commemoration of  
those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of  
duty. This year brought the untimely death of Brian  
Adkins, a 25-year-old Foreign Service Officer in his  
first tour of duty in the consular section of the  
American Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Brian's  
passing reminds us that danger is not solely contained  
within war zones, and his memory will live on in the  
hearts of his family, colleagues, and friends.

Today, we also pay tribute to those who have not  
previously been recognized for their service. Felix  
Russell Engdahl (1907-1942), a U.S. Consul in Shanghai,  
was captured by Japanese forces shortly after Pearl  
Harbor and died in an accident in a Hong Kong internment  
camp. Thomas w. Waldron (1814-1844), the first U.S.  
Consul in Hong Kong, died of cholera while visiting  
Macau. Finally, we honor Edmund Roberts (1784-1836), a  
special envoy sent by President Andrew Jackson to  
negotiate a treaty with Japan who died of dysentery in  
Macau.

The etching of their names onto the memorial plaque is  
both a celebration of their lives and a remembrance of  
their service. Today, as we recognize everyone here and  
those serving at posts abroad, we honor these four  
diplomats and pause to reflect on others who have given  
their lives in service to our country. I join Secretary  
Clinton in saluting them and in applauding all members of  
our diplomatic service.  
End Text.

12. Minimize Considered.

CLINTON